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### UM conference spotlights marginalized literatures

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# The University of Montana

## NEWS RELEASE

University Communications  
Missoula, MT 59812  
(406) 243-2522  
(406) 243-4520 FAX

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March 29, 1996

### UM CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHTS MARGINALIZED LITERATURES

#### MISSOULA --

A national graduate student conference featuring presentations on multicultural, gay/lesbian and other frequently sidelined literatures will convene at The University of Montana—Missoula Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13.

Sessions of the conference, "Theoretical Approaches to Marginalized Literatures," will meet from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday in third floor rooms of the Business Administration Building. The general public may attend all sessions both days for \$2.

For a \$50 registration fee anyone interested may attend all conference events, including a Friday evening reception and a Saturday evening dinner followed by the keynote speech, "Justifying the Margins, or Journey to the Center of the Turf," by Mary Louise Pratt of Stanford University's Spanish and Portuguese literature department.

More than 100 graduate students from around the country will present papers and gather for informal discussions, English Assistant Professor Veronica Stewart said. Stewart has directed the conference at UM for three years, taking it over from Washington State University in 1993.

"This is the most important thing that occurs on this campus for our graduate students in literature," Stewart said, adding that it is highly unusual for a department with no doctoral program to host such a conference.

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"The faculty and graduate students in the department of English deserve the applause of their colleagues for bringing the very brightest graduate students at the very best institutions across the country to Missoula," said Raymond Murray, UM's vice president for research and development.

Registration will be from 8 a.m. to noon both days on the first floor of the Business Administration Building.

To register in advance or get more information, call conference organizer Larry Koch at 543-2758.

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**Note to media:** Reporters with identification are welcome to attend the Friday evening reception for Pratt and her Saturday evening after-dinner speech. Both events will be at the Village Red Lion. The reception runs from 5 to 7 p.m. The speech will start about 7:30 p.m., and reporters are advised to arrive about 7:15 p.m.

**Contacts:** Veronica Stewart, 243-5352; or English Assistant Professor Virginia Carmichael, 243-2138.

TB

Local, dailies

Marginal.rl